G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references.

G.F. File No. 65-21

1921.

Serial Nos 1-2

(G.F.)

Later references.

GF 90-29.
1/22
GF 45-240-34 (2 to 3)
G.E. 24-42 (1-7)

Reserve
1.11.43

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 2

Part B for November 1921

SUBJECT.

Pointing out by the Chamber of Commerce the delay in the disposal of the Commercial litigation by the Courts, (2) insufficiency of Ry. wagons, and (3) the Establishment by the Govt. of India of a currency Chest for the State

P28
E

DIARY No. 2174

1921 - 1922

Letter No. 67 dated 10th June 1921 from the Secretary, Mysore Chamber of Commerce, Bangalore to the Chief Secretary to Government.

In forwarding herewith 5 copies of the Chairman's speech delivered at the Annual Meeting held on the 28th May 1921, I am directed to request that the attention of Government may kindly be drawn to the Chairman's speech touching the delay in the disposal of Commercial litigation by the Courts, (b) the insufficiency of Railway waggons and (c) the establishment by the Government of India of a Currency Chest for the State.

(Sd) For Secretary

For perusal.

The Chamber will be asked to make a separate reference in regard to note currency. As regards (2) (3), extract may perhaps be sent to the Chief Court (Kurunja Court Section) and the Agent, Mysore Railways for disposal. (Sd/ Illegible 16.6.1921 Secretary E&H)

Please send a copy of this & one copy of Enclosure to each Branch Concerned for taking further action. Acknowledge receipt.

(Sd) Illegible 24/6/1921

A copy of the Committee report & extract thereof are submitted for orders with a draft.

May this be sent to Comptroller for his views

Illegible 28/7

Illegible 3/8

Does not know what action we can take in the matter.

G. R. S. III-21

General and Revenue Secretariat. | GF File No. 65 of 1921.

Serial No.

Statement of the chairman. Ch: of C.

The new Committee has to consider the question of supplying notes and submit a representation to Govt with their recommendation on the subject — Whatever action is decided upon can be taken thereon — In the meantime the Govt of the Chairmans remarks referred to might be forwarded to the Comptr for information and such action as he deems fit to take in the matter of affording facilities for the exchange of specie into Currency notes & Vice Versa —

Floor)

478 / 21

There is a Currency Chest in the C & M Station and Metre Wanted = That it should be adequate to meeting the demands of the Mysore Court and of the Dasara of Mysore and on demands should be met without delay.

I would also ask for a small coin depôt in Bangalore

The Comptr's views may be invited & he may be asked if he can correspond on these points with the Controller of Currency & settle them and Comptr) to forward a note to Govt

I do not see why we should keep a stock of these Coins in the Sec Try. we should get our supplies as we need them

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE 50/k 13 AUG 1921 BANGALORE

General and Revenue Secretariat.

67 File No. 65 of 1921.

78 R

83285

Serial No. Ue 283 Books 8/9/21

REV. SCOTT.

Hon 2 - SEP 1921

If so desired, I shall send an extract of the Chairman's speech to the Accountant General, Madras, and ascertain from him what facilities it lies with him to secure for the public of Mysore in the matter.

CV/1-9

Offg. Comptroller.

701/2/9 Secy

Mr. Rose has taken up the matter with the Controller of Currency & the result of this interview & correspondence may be awaited

Mr. 22-9-21

From Mr. Rose.

Do 8:20-9-21.

It was hoped Mr. Mc Watters is expected to be at Madras this cold weather when he promised to take the matter of the creation of a currency circle & small coins depots for Mysore.

Letter: Please say orders on Mr. P.N.

'Further Communication may be awaited

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

Perhaps [illegible] Pro Comm has yet been received: may the manager's [illegible] orders his communication be awaited for some time more

Yes 18/9/21

DIARY No. 917

The Bank of Mysore Ltd.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:-
"MYSOREBANK."
CODE – 5TH EDITION A.B.C.

mmunications to be addressed
TO THE MANAGER.

Bangalore, 20th Sept. 1921

No D.O.

Currency chest and small coin depot for Mysore State.

Dear Mr. Krishna Rao,

As desired, I had an interview with Mr.McWaters, I.C.S., C.I.E., Controller General of Currency in Calcutta, and Mr.W.D. Woollam, the Accountant General in Madras (the latter interview being at the request of Mr.McWaters) on the question of the creation of a currency chest and small coin depot for Mysore. Both officers expressed their surprise at their being any difficulty to obtain currency notes freely from the Imperial Bank of India, Bangalore, and Mr. Woollam promised to address the local Secretary & Treasurer of the Imperial Bank of India and ask him to be more generous in meeting the Banks demands for notes.

I now enclose copies of correspondence that have passed between myself and Mr.Woollam in the matter.

Mr.McWaters is expected to be in Madras this cold weather when he promised to take up the matter in consultation with Mr. Woollam.

Yours Sincerely,

M.N.Krishna Rao Esq.,
Financial Secretary,
Government of Mysore,
Bangalore.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED
TO ~~THE~~ MANAGER.
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "MYSOREBANK."
CODE: A. B. C. 5TH EDITION.
POST BOX No. 37.

No.....

The Bank of Mysore, Ltd.,

Bangalore, ...

16th September 1921

D.O.

My Dear Woollam,

Thanks for your D.O.letter of the 10th instant No.521.

I am sorry Mr. McWaters has misunderstood my submission. What I desired to point out was that the Government of India has no special small coin depot to meet the requirements of the Mysore Government and public, and that the Durbar itself ~~was~~ compelled to maintain one in order to meet the demands from its several Treasuries in the State and the Bank of Mysore. If a separate chest and small coin depot cannot be arranged for Mysore, then there should be, at least, every convenience and freedom for the Government of Mysore as well as the public of Mysore to promptly obtain their currency requirements whenever the need arises from the currency chest already established and a coin depot which, it is now suggested, should also be opened.

I am much obliged to you for the interest you are so ~~kmnly~~ kindly taking in this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Sgnd W.D.Woollam

W.D.Woollan Esq.,
Accountant General,
Madras.

Copy by Fair Copy with reference to my letter of the 20th September 1921
WDW

D.O.No.521

Fort St. George,
10th Sept. 1921.

My Dear Rose,

Please see the enclosed extract from a letter which I have received from Mc Waters.

2. From our conversation I gathered that your difficulty was the other way i.e. you had occasionally large accumulation of small coins and the Imperial Bank objected to receive them.

3. Will you kindly let me know exactly what your complaint is and how the opening of a small coin depot is likely to improve matters.

Yours sincerely,

Sd.W.B.Woollam.

W.C.Rose Esquire,
Manager,
Bank of Mysore Ltd.,
Bangalore.

Extract from D.O.Letter No.B&R 1168 dated 6-9-21 from A.C.McWatters, Esq., Calcutta to W.D.Woollam, Esq., Accountant General, Madras.

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x x x x x

2. Another point raised by Mr. Rose was the question of small coins. I am not quite clear from Mr. Rose's account why there should be any difficulty in getting small coin, and you might discuss the matter with him also. I understand that he will call on you on his way through to Mysore.

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Extract from the Daily Post, dated the 28th and 30th May, 1921.

Mysore Chamber of Commerce.

THE REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

For the year 1920-1921.

BANGALORE:

Printed at the Bangalore Daily Post Press.

The Mysore Chamber of Commerce, Bangalore.

The Report of the Managing Committee for the year 1920-21, is as follows :—The Managing Committee of the Mysore Chamber of Commerce have the pleasure to submit to the members of the Chamber their Fifth Annual Report for the year ending 30th April, 1921.

Summary of the Trade of the State for the year 1919-1920. The trade of the State during the year has been satisfactory, as is shown by the following figures, which are extracted from the concise review of the Deputy Director of Commerce and Statistics, on the rail-borne trade of the State.

"The total trade of the State during the year was valued at 26·84 crores of rupees, as against 24·30 crores of rupees in 1918-19, and as against the previous four years' average of 17·84 crores of rupees. The trade in merchandise was worth 23·75 crores of rupees and that in Treasure 3·08 crores of rupees.

The value of the imports rose from 12·54 crores to 13·38 crores of rupees, by 7 per cent. The value of the exports rose from 11·76 crores of rupees to 13·45 crores of rupees, by 14 per cent.

Compared with the previous year, merchandise was imported 9 per cent more, and treasure 34 per cent less. Under exports, too, merchandise was 19 per cent more and treasure 1 per cent less."

Members.

On 1st May 1920, there were on the list 97 members, of whom 63 were local and 32 mofussil and two Honorary. During the year under review, 13 local and 15 mofussil members were enrolled, and 11 local and 16 mofussil members resigned. Thus there were 65 local, 31 mofussil and two honorary members, making a total of 98 on the list as on 30th April, 1921, showing an increase of one member compared with last year.

Mr. M. V. Subbiah represented the Chamber on the Economic Development Board and the Bangalore City Municipality.

Messrs M. Ramachandra Rao Scindia and K. B Puttappa represented the Chamber on the Mysore Representative Assembly.

Mr V. Lakshmanswamy continued to represent the Chamber on the Bangalore District Board.

Renewal of Concession by the Government of Mysore for a Further Period of Two Years.

The original concession granted to the Chamber by the Government of Mysore for three years in their G. O. No. 6160-67 A. I. 159-13-3, dated the 25th April 1916, was kindly renewed for a further period of two years by the Government in their Order No. 1130-5 I. & C.—35-19-23, dated the 30th July 1920, for which the Chamber are thankful to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

Chamber's Weekly Price Current and Market Report.

The report is now being printed by a private press, and every endeavour was made for its prompt publication on Monday. The circulation of the report is on the increase, the number of copies now weekly circulated being about 250. There is a demand for the report from foreign countries, and the request is readily acceded to.

Railway Difficulties.

Turning our attention to the various important subjects dealt with by the Chamber during the year under review, the question of railway difficulties occupied the prominent place. Numerous complaints have been and are being still received from various centres about the difficulties which trade is being put to on account of a shortage in the supply of waggons, (2) the vexatious and tedious delay in the settlement of claims, (3) the thefts in goods-sheds and waggons, (4) the increasing tendency for Railway Companies to shirk their responsibility for losses incurred, under the

pretext of Owner's Risks Note, (5) and the enforcement of the execution of Power of Attorney by merchants for clearance of goods. These subjects have already been represented and frequently discussed, and your committee is glad to inform the members that Mr. H. Fraser, District Traffic Superintendent and the representative of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Co., Ltd., in the Chamber, has promised to redress the grievances as far as it is possible.

Regarding the question of the execution of Power of Attorney to clear goods, the Railway Authorities have decided that there is no need for the execution of a Power of Attorney in cases in which a railway receipt has been endorsed to his Agent, etc, by the consignee.

Administration of Railways in India.

With reference to Resolution No. 405-F-19, dated the 9th October, 1920, from the Railway Board, Government of India, regarding certain matters connected with the administration of Railways in India, the Committee replied that it is desirable, that, whether the management of the Railways in India be by the State or by Indian Companies, the general public, and in particular the commercial community should in some manner be adequately represented on such management, and that local consulting committees should be established with a definite status and entrusted with specific duties and responsibilities.

The Indian Railway Board Committee.

Messrs. B. K. Garudachar and W. C. Rose, were selected to give evidence before the Indian Railway Board Committee, and as it was found inconvenient to give evidence in person, written evidence was sent. Regarding the question of Capital funds for Railways, it was observed that so long as no share in the control of Railways was given to the people of India, there was no likelihood of investments in Indian Railways becoming popular with Indian investors. The Institution of a Railway Department of the Government of India with a Minister of the Viceroy's Council at its head, and an advisory

Board consisting of Railway Agents and commercial men, was suggested in place of the present Railway Board and London Boards, as such a step would lead the people of India to realise that they have a direct voice in the control and management of their Railways.

Indian Railway Police Committee.

At the request of this Chamber, Messrs. Hanson and Ross, of the Indian Railway Police Committee, kindly held a sitting at the "Daly Memorial Hall", Bangalore, on Monday, the 7th February, 1921, when several witnesses were examined. The present points suggested for preventing and minimising the thefts were as follows :—

(a) A better method of recruiting and improving the Ward and Watch Staff, and of making this department independent of the Station Master.

(b) The opening of a priority register, where applications for the supply of waggons could be entered in succession.

(c) The prevention of casual labourers from being employed by the Railway Company, and forcing all Railway coolies to wear badges on their arms and their consequent identification, by separate numbers.

(d) Patrolling of the goods-sheds by the Railway Police.

(e) The stoppage of "running train thefts" by making a member of the Railway Police to travel with the guard of a goods train, and holding the former responsible for all locks and seals being intact at all halting and transhipment stations.

(f) Employment of a travelling Police Magistrate, who would visit stations within his radius at least once a fortnight.

(g) Unemployment of a discharged employee of any Railway Company, unless he should possess satisfactory testimonials.

(h) Immediate dismissal of a Railway Employee in cases of any proved charge against him, forfeiting his provident fund and security deposit.

(i) The assumption of all risks by the Railway Company for shipments, by levying a small graduated fee of insurance or by increasing the present freight charges, and thus dispensing with risk note forms.

(j) The existence of a strong room arrangement in all mail trains for conveying gold and silver bullion, etc., and the imposing of an insurance fee of ¼ per cent. for protecting the Railway Company against losses.

Mysore Stock Exchange.

In reply to a letter from the Financial Secretary to the Government of Mysore, regarding the establishment of a Mysore Stock Exchange, the Committee replied that this is not a suitable time to start the scheme.

Carriage of Bunker Coal by Sea.

With reference to a telegram from the Secretary, Railway Board, Simla, regarding the carriage of coal by sea instead of by rail, the Committee replied, by wire, supporting the Government of India order to carry all bunker coal to all Indian ports other than Calcutta by sea and not by rail, and urged that proper arrangements be made for the speedy despatch of coal to the interior parts of the country by rail from Madras Port.

Non-payment of V. P. Articles.

The Committee received complaints from various members regarding the non-payment of V. P. Articles by the Post Office. The Postal authorities were addressed in the matter, and the Committee are glad to state that the claims have been fully settled by the Postal authorities, who have also assured the Chamber that there will be no occasion for such complaints hereafter. Our thanks are due to the Postmaster-General for the expeditious way in which he handled the subject.

Publication of a "Mysore Directory."

Your Committee resolved at one of their meetings to publish a Directory containing the names and addresses of merchants and manufacturers in the State, and necessary action is being taken in the matter.

General Telephone System in Bangalore and Mysore.

Your Committee have been repeatedly urging Government for the early installation of the General Telephone System in Bangalore and Mysore, which has now become an urgent necessity, and a reply has been received that the question will be taken into consideration after the overhauling of the entire system is finished. The Committee suggests that this matter should be pressed again by the incoming Committee.

The Secretary's Visit.

During the year under review, the Secretary of the Chamber visited several important trading centres, such as Mysore, Shimoga and Thirthahalli, on propagandistic work. The thanks of the Chamber are due to the several gentlemen who helped the Secretary in various ways on these occasions.

Mysore State Railways.

Your Committee addressed the Mysore Railway Authorities, Mysore, enquiring the reason for the enhancement of freight on timber since the Bangalore-Mysore-Nanjangud Section was taken by the Mysore Government from the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Co., Ld., and what notice was given to the public before the new rate was brought into force. A reply has been received to the effect that no fixed period of notice is necessary in the case of alterations in rates, as these may, at any time, be altered at the option of the Railway provided the maxima and minima imposed by Government are not infringed. Such a procedure is in complete variance with that adopted by Railway Companies in India, who usually introduce enhancements of rate after one or two months' notice. It is desirable that the Mysore State Railways should act on a similar manner, and the Government be addressed in the matter.

Survey Certificate.

Your Committee received one requisition for a Survey Certificate this year from one of the members of the Chamber, and they trust this

satisfactory mode of adjusting differences will be taken more advantage of by the mercantile community.

Coal Situation.

Having received complaint about the importation of coal from one of the local Foundries, your Committee addressed the Coal Control authorities on the subject. It helped the member of the Chamber in securing waggons for coal supplies.

Legislative Measures.

Regulations passed by the Mysore Legislative Council, since May 1920, affecting Trade and Commerce.

1. The Mysore Income-Tax Regulation.

2. Regulation further to amend the Mysore Forest Regulation 1900.

3. Regulation further to amend the Mysore Land Revenue Code, 1888.

4. Regulation further to amend the Mysore Municipal Regulation, 1906.

5. Regulation further to amend the Mysore Excise Regulation.

The following are now pending before the Council.

1. Bill further to amend the Mysore State Life Insurance Regulation, 1907.

2. Bill to prevent the adulteration of food stuffs.

3. Bill further to amend the Breach of Contract Act 1859.

Fifth Annual General Meeting Proceedings.

The Fifth Annual General Meeting of the members of the Mysore Chamber of Commerce was held at the Offices of the Bank of Mysore, Ltd., Bangalore, on Saturday, the 28th May 1921, at 4 p. m., when Mr. B. K. Garudachar presided. About 40 members of the Chamber were present. The Deputy Director of Commerce in Mysore, on invitation, was also kindly present on the occasion.

After the adoption of the Report of the Managing Committee for 1920-21, which was printed and circulated to all present, the Chairman delivered his speech. He next moved the adoption of the report, the audited accounts of the Chamber and the confirmation of the election of members elected during the year. In seconding the motion, Mr. K. Sreenivasa Raghavachar observed that the publication of a "Directory" containing the names of merchants in the State would be a useful innovation. He also observed that the deputation of the Chamber's Secretary to visit important trade centres was a right step, as it would be of material benefit to the Chamber as well as to the Mercantile Community.

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

At the Fifth Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, the 28th May 1921, at 4 p.m., the Chairman said:—

GENTLEMEN,—It is a pleasure to me to once again address you at this, our Fifth Annual meeting, and I hope the Report of the Managing Committee that has just been read out by the Secretary will be considered satisfactory by you. The past year's work shows you the necessity for a Chamber such as ours. The results of the labours of the Managing Committee can be claimed to have been of a practical nature, and by a still more active co-operation on the part of the mercantile community, the influence of the Chamber will increase and its practical efforts be more successful in the State. You have had yearly appeals made to you to give the Chamber your assistance and practical co-operation and, while I gratefully acknowledge that such services have in a measure been received, nevertheless, there is plenty of room for improvement. We must all make this Chamber our direct mouthpiece with the Government and other bodies, and if we will not act and pull together as one united body for the removal of our difficulties, you cannot be surprised if the Chamber's efforts fail to sufficiently influence the authorities. That the Chamber is making good progress is evidenced from the members on the rolls, and its strong financial position. I would, however, appeal for still greater co-operation from the merchants in the Districts, for it is here that trade first experiences its difficulties to reach its principal centres of trade. The Committee are most anxious to help and advise those who, from inexperience or difficulties in the way, find it difficult to secure a free market for their produce; but no one must expect the Chamber to take up personal questions, such as to procure a larger number of rail waggons than be can expect to fall to his allotment. We have obviously to judge matters from all sides, and the personal aspect must be subordinate to that of the general body of the public, but such grievances

which militate against the development of trade and commerce will receive the Chamber's wholehearted support, and it is to gain such redress that I make this appeal to you to bring your difficulties to the Chamber for consideration. Let each one of us undertake to do something for the Chamber every year, even if the act may only result in introducing one active member. You have just heard of our successful interviews with the Postmaster General, the local District Traffic Superintendent, and the members of the Government of India Committee appointed to consider the questions of Railway thefts. To these gentlemen I wish to convey the Chamber's grateful thanks for their patient hearing of our representations, specially to the Postmaster General of Madras for the speedy removal of our grievances in connection with the payment of the proceeds of V. P. Parcels. I would take this opportunity to draw his kind attention to the present irregular and late deliveries of letters, not to mention wrong deliveries. How far the delays are due to the vagaries of the Railway Companies I cannot say, but a little more supervision on the part of the Postal Superiors, as well as a closer examination of the qualifications of applicants for employment, would go some way to give the public that working efficiency which so important a Government department must at all times maintain.

We shall anxiously await the report of the Committee appointed to consider the question of Railway thefts, and I feel confident that nothing but good will result from the very patient and sympathetic manner in which the enquiry has been conducted.

As regards trade during the past year, it is unnecessary for me to mention that the most important event affecting trade has been the collapse of the sterling exchange value of the rupee.

In my speech last year on this vexatious question, I ventured to state that the action of the Government of India in selling Reverse Councils to force the Sterling value of the Rupee from 2-10 to 2 was a wrong one, and it has been more than confirmed by the present chaos that now prevails. The balance of

trade against India has proved too much for the Government to liquidate, and its present decision not to support exchange even at its prewar level, *viz*, sixteen pence with a sterling Reserve of some 35 million pounds specially created for this purpose, is proving as disastrous as its action was in the selling of Reserve Councils when exchange was over [illegible].2 to the Rupee. To prophesy as to the future of exchange, in the present unsettled state of things all over the world, would be tantamount to folly on my part, but given a good monsoon this year, with all export restrictions removed and better labour conditions all over the world, and Europe furnished with credits for the purchase of the world's raw products, then I see no reason why we should not see an improvement in the Exchange value of the rupee, especially in view of the fact that the Secretary of State for India in London has now no occasion to finance himself through the sale of Council Bills. There are, as far as I can perceive, one or two dark spots in India which must first disappear before we can expect trade to run the even tenor of its ways. The present congestion of unpaid imports at all ports must be paid for, and the uncertain state of conditions in the North-West Frontier must give place to peace and goodwill, and equally so the present unrestful spirit of labour. You, gentlemen, by the high positions you hold, must exercise all your influence and persuasion to bring labour and capital to work together in the true spirit of co-operation.

Monetary conditions all through the year have been stringent, and the present cheapness is more artificial than real. Banks are not willing lenders, except against the most liquid securities. The Government of India and our own Government, will before long take up all the available surplus funds, and we shall then return to renewed stringency in the autumn. The question of the note currency in the State is not altogether one which we can regard with satisfaction. With the return of the rupee from its hidden places there has recently been a strong demand for notes which cannot

be met, and I hope the new Committee will seriously consider the matter and press our Government to call for an adequate supply of notes being always made available locally in exchange for rupees, or vice versa. We periodically have a famine of silver coins or a dearth of notes, and until these drawbacks are remedied it is impossible for the people to have that complete faith in the convertibility of the currency notes which is so desirable in the interest of free trade.

The volume of trade for the past 12 months shows :—

Piece-goods.—The tone of the piece-goods market was generally healthy and normal; and though the volume of trade was comparatively much less than in the previous year, the value of goods dealt with shows an increase, owing to the then prevailing higher prices.

The following are the figures for the Bangalore City as furnished by the Municipality, for the year ending 31st December 1920.

The value of all imports into Bangalore City has risen from Rs. 113,12,320 in 1919 to Rs, 123,57,184 in the past year.

The amount of Octroi received on the same was Rs.1,93,081-11-1 in 1920 as against Rs.1,76.755 in 1919, The amount of Octroi received in 1917 was Rs.94,583 as against Rs.79,421 in 1916.

As was anticipated by the Chamber 3 years ago, Bangalore City has now become an important centre of trade for Southern India, with increased imports in each successive year. Our markets are somewhat overstocked, but goods are in strong hands. I would, however, point out the evils resulting from an attempt to hold up goods purchased at higher prices than those prevailing at present. If holders will not reduce prices they can only expect our buyers to go to other markets, where goods are saleable at lower rates. Our merchants must look more to their annual turnover than to securing a profit on every bale of cloth.

The customary review of the Railway Borne Trade within the State for the year 1920, for the principal commodities, has not yet been

received by the Chamber from the Deputy Director of Commerce and Statistics in Mysore. Hence, I can give the average prices of each commodity only.

Rice.—The average price for the year is Rs.26-4-4 as against Rs 27-1-0 in 1919 per palla showing a fall of 3 per cent,

Ragi—The average price for the year is Rs, 84-10-6 as against Rs-74 in 1919 showing an increase of 14 per cent.

Paddy—The average price for the year is Rs. 68-4-7 as against Rs, 73 in 1919 showing a fall of 9 per cent,

Sugar (unrefined).—The average price for the year is Rs. 5-11-9 as against Rs. 3-6-0 showing an increase of about 70 per cent.

Jaggery.—The average price for the year is Rs. 5-6-11 as against Rs. 2-14-0 in 1919 showing an increase of 89 per cent,

Cotton Seed.—The average price for the year is Rs, 1-7-2 as against Rs. 1-8-0 in 1919 showing a fall of 4 per cent.

Castor Seed.—The average price for the year is Rs.43-15-0 as against Rs.52-8-0 in 1919, showing a decrease of 16 per cent.

Til Seed —The average price for the year is Rs, 77—4—6 as against Rs. 71 in 1919 showing an increase of 8½ per cent.

During the year 1920, licenses were issued for the import of 13,400 tons of Burma rice, and the average price was Rs. 17-4 per bag of 225 lbs, nett of Burma whole rice big mills special. The undermentioned commodities are controlled, and their export outside the State is prohibited by Government, 1. Paddy, 2 Rice, 3 Ragi, 4 Jola, 5, Navene 6 Horsegram, 7 Boiled Rice, Avalakki or beaten Rice, Huriyavalu, Puri, Mandaralu (Puffed or Poeed Rice, 8 Flour prepared fromrice, ragi and jola,

The Government final forecasts of the paddy and ragi crops show that during the year under review, the total area under paddy has been 680,385 acres as against 772,753 acres (revised figure) or nearly 11·55 per cent less than the total area in 1919-20. The decrease has occurred

in all the districts except Shimoga. More than one-third of this contraction in area, *i.e.*, 33,484 acres out of 92,368 acres has occurred in the District of Hassan alone. As a necessary consequence of this large decrease in the area, the outturn has gone down 214,125 tons in 1919-20 to 175,333 tons. The out-turn this year is about 19 per cent less than the actual out-turn during the preceding year and 36 per cent less than the standard outturn.

The area under ragi has decreased from 2,238,228 acres during 1919-20 to 2,204,664 acres. For a fall of 11½ per cent in the area, the out-turn has fallen by 17½ per cent, being only 5,617,774 pallas against 6,790,846 in 1919-20. The shrinkage in the Tumkur District alone was as much as 42,000 acres.

The contraction in the acreage under paddy and ragi the staple food crops in the State is noticeably large. It is in the main due to the influence of unfavourable seasonal conditions. Government consider, however, that efforts should be made as far as possible to counteract their effects by the most economical utilization of available irrigational facilities, improved selection of seed and similar measures. The question of increasing the food production of the State is also under investigation by the Government.

The price of oil seeds went up in the early part of 1920, and suddenly decreased later to fifty per cent of the value. The reasons attributed are the lack of demand from foreign countries, which are the greatest consumers of oilseeds, and the dislocation of Tannery work. Our merchants have sustained losses to a great extent. Even to-day the prospects of the oil seeds market is very uncertain.

This year for the first time, your Committee have had to deal with questions concerning the collection of Income tax in the State, an unwelcome stranger but one who I fear will not be long before he gains the prominence of his brother in British India. I think it will be found that the introduction of such a tax will prove to be for our good, if it will only result in the people taking a greater interest in the affairs of the State, and not being afraid to criticise

extravagance and inefficient Government administration. It is said that you have got to twist the tail of the British Lion to make him roar, and I think the touching of our pockets will equally create an outcry if the proceeds of the tax are wasted on objects of no real benefit to the people. Our worthy Dewan, in his address to the Representative Assembly last October, mentioned that the Income tax Department had received instructions to render all reasonable help in the preparations of returns of income, but I venture to think it would be equally profitable if the officers charged with the collection of the tax show sympathy and moderation in their dealings and demands, and which would greatly ease their labours and make a distasteful levy a pleasant evil. I have heard of some assessments which only one living in quarters not far distant from this Chamber could be thought capable of making, and there is some talk of merchants giving up their business premises in the City and returning to the Cantonment, where the levy of the tax is considered less harsh. It is therefore most desirable that every latitude and allowance should be made by the officers of the Department in the realization of the tax, and by so acting I do not think they will run any risk of losing their appointments.

Before I bring my address to a close, it is my unpleasant duty to refer to one or two subjects of supreme importance to the members of this Chamber, and the trading interests of the State. I will not offer any words of apology for introducing these subjects, about which I know there is so much of bitter feeling in the mind of every merchant in this State, but sincerely hope that these words, which merely echo the prevailing feeling, may at least now reach the ears of our Government, and that suitable steps may be promptly adopted for remedying the evils.

First and foremost must be placed the inordinate, I may say almost notorious delay in the disposal of commercial litigation by our judicial tribunals. I am aware of the stock answer that will be given to this complaint, that such delay is not peculiar to this State, but common to all countries. But, gentlemen, that

"delay is common" does not make our grievance less bitter, rather more, especially when, as must be readily admitted, the quantity of real commercial litigation in our State is, by the very conditions of trade here, comparatively trifling, and its nature generally less complicated and mostly petty, as compared with litigation in more advanced countries. Reform in the practical handling of cases by our judges from start to finish, from service of notice on the defendant to securing the arrest of the judgment debtor or bringing his assets to sale, is absolutely necessary for the encouragement of honest trade in the State. I cannot, indeed, see why substituted service is not more frequently resorted to in the case of an evading defendant or judgment debtor instead of the plaintiff or decree holder being entirely left, as at present, at the mercy of that most notorious limb of the law—the Amin. Why, again, the summary procedure, with reference to claims on promissory notes and bills of exchange sanctioned by Government on our motion in 1919, has not found application in our courts and in practice has borne so little fruit so far, is a matter which requires looking into. The frequent applications for adjournment is another evil which could be mitigated, either by firm action on the part of the presiding Judge or infliction of the heavy cost of the day's proceedings on the party asking for the adjournment. Then, again, is it not possible to reform procedure of courts in such a manner as to secure the arrest of a judgment debtor within the jurisdiction of different Courts in the State by process of one Court? In these days of quick transit nothing is easier than for a recalcitrant judgment debtor, say in Mysore town, to keep moving between Mysore, Srirangapatam and Nanjangud, and laugh at the vain efforts of his creditor to bring him to book before the Court. Is it not possible for the Government to institute a confidential section in each court, under the supervision of a responsible officer—not one like the present official, who has nothing to lose but everything to gain by delays— to secure that the information regarding attachment and arrest does not leak out to the judgment debtor in advance of the issue of process, as is notori-

cusly common at present?' I have detailed only a few of the crying evils relating to the procedure in Civil Courts, whose reformation is urgently called for, if the present abnormal delay, resulting naturally in heavy cost of commercial litigation, should be avoided. If the Government consider that the constitution of our Civil Courts is such that the special procedure for the prompt disposal of suits above suggested cannot be adopted, I think the Chamber should urge the Government to institute a special class of commercial courts for remedying the present evil, the magnitude of which and its paralysing effects on honest dealings cannot be exaggerated.

While on this subject, I should like to refer to one other rather important point. The rate of interest allowed by Courts on decree debts, which is generally 6 per cent, is too low in these times when compared with the present market rate. I know of several cases in which the debtor keeps back the debt, and forces the creditor to go to Court, feeling confident of having to pay a smaller interest after decree, and putting off the payment of same for years more. A circular from the Chief Court inviting the attention of Judges to the necessity of awarding interest on decree amount, not lower than the prevailing market rate, would perhaps conduce to mitigate the heavy loss to which creditors are often now subjected.

One more word and I will be done. I cannot say who is responsible for it, but complaints about the difficulty of readily securing waggons—more so on State Railways—for transport of goods continue to be as frequent as ever. The question of supplying a sufficient number of waggons to meet trade demand is no doubt engaging the attention of the Railway Department, but I would like to suggest, in the interests of both the Department and the public, the introduction of the proper maintenance, as is done by other Railway Companies, of a register of applications for waggons—one register to be maintained in the Goods Transport Department at each Railway Station, and a copy of the same in the Office of the District Traffic Superintendent, for purpose of scrutiny. Merchants may also be instructed to send ap-

plications in duplicate, one to the Goods Inspector at the goods-shed, and another direct to the District Traffic Superintendent simultaneously. This procedure may perhaps introduce a check on the vagaries of the lower subordinates of the Department, but at all events, will enable the Department to show to the complaining public that applications from merchants are dealt with equitably and in the order of receipts, and that no preferential treatment is accorded to any merchant for shady reasons. The real remedy is, however, in the hands of our merchants themselves. If they would only combine for a time to refrain from gratifying the demands of those having the disposal of waggons in their hands, and not consign a single maund unless waggons were supplied without payment, then perhaps the absence of traffic will at least attract the attention of the District Traffic Superintendent, and suitable action taken against those in charge of the goods department, It is also desirable that the District Traffic Superintendent should keep in friendly touch with merchants and learn from them of their difficulties. He should also institute measures of a confidential nature to watch those in charge of the goods departments, and be held responsible by Government for the malpractices of his subordinates. We cannot expect much improvement in this direction if those holding high offices are not held responsible for the glaring evils in their own department, and one or two severe lessons on the part of Government to those failing in this duty cannot but have the most salutary effects. While on this railway question, I would also like to draw the attention of Government to the loss of revenue they suffer through insufficient attention at the principal railway stations to applicants for tickets. There should be more than one clerk to attend to the issue of tickets to third-class pasengers, and the checking staff more critically watched. A Superior Officer might be deputed to inspect tickets on the line, and the compartments of guards inspected. to see that no one is harbouring himself there. In one word, we want a thorough wakening up of our railway officials, and to impress upon them that the Railways are run in the interest of the

Government and public, and not as an additional source of profit to those in charge.

After the close of the speech the Chairman thanked Mr. W. C. Rose for his wholehearted support in the conduct of the affairs of the Chamber in past years, and hoped the members would secure his services for the future on the Managing Committee.

The election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman was next taken up. Messrs. K. Sreenivasaraghavachar and T. M. S. Subramaniyam were appointed as tellers. Messrs B. K. Garudachar and M Hariyanna were elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

The next item on the Agenda was the election of the members of the Managing Committee for 1921-22. The following gentlemen were elected to the Managing Committee for 1921-22.

Messrs. B. K. Garudachar, Chairman; M. Hariyanna, Vice-Chairman; W. C. Rose, M. Ramachandra Rao Scindia, M. V. Subbiah, P.M. Basappa, D. Adeppa, K. G. Pashupathy Iyer, Devarao Shivaram and H. Fraser, as representing the M. & S. M. Railway Company, Ltd.

Messrs M. Ramachandra Rao Scindia and Tubagere Nanjappa were elected as the Chamber's representatives to the Mysore Representative Assembly for the year 1921-22.

The Chairman proposed that Mr. T. M. S. Subramaniyam be appointed Auditor for 1921-22 on a fee of Rs100 per annum, and this was unanimously carried.

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting terminated at 6 p.m.

Extract- forom Mysore Chamber of Commerce Report for the yr 1920-1921. Page 13

Monetary conditions all through the year have been stringe and the present ~~xxx~~ cheapness is more artificial than real. Banks are not willing lenders, except against the most liquid securities. The Government of India and our own Government, will before long take up all the available surplus funds, and we shall then return to renewed stringency in the autumn. The question of the note currency in the State is not altogether one which we can regard with satisfaction. With the return of the rupee from its hidden places there has recently been a strong demand for notes which cannot be met, and I hope the new Committe will seriously consider the matter and press our Government to call for an adequate supply of notes being always made available locally in exchange for rupees, or vice versa. We periodically have a famine of silver coins or a dearth of notes, and until these drawbacks are remedied it is impossible for the people to have that complete faith in the convertibility of the currency notes which is so desirable in the interest of free trade.